

**MAYOR'S ADVISORY GROUP  
AUGUST 16, 2005**

**MINUTES**

Members Present

Joseph Donaldson, Mayor  
Judy Boyer  
David Camacho  
Karl Baumgartner  
Mitch Strohmman  
Gene Westerhaus  
Ryan Rodriguez  
Coral Evans-Randall  
Nat White

Members Absent

Grover Decker  
Renee Fauset  
Stephanie Ludwig  
Tara Green  
Stephanie McKinney  
Robert Magnuson - excused  
Lee Treece-Excused  
Joanne Keene  
Julie Pastrick  
Dana Russell – excused

Staff Present

Dave Wilcox, City Manager  
Bill Menard, Public Works Director  
Mike Covalt, Airport Manager  
Laura Parker

Mayor Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:50 a.m.

Approval of Minutes. Gene Westerhaus mentioned he was listed both absent and present at the last meeting, he was present, and the minutes will be adjusted accordingly. A motion was made by David Camacho to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2005 meeting. Motion seconded by Gene Westerhaus. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Donaldson welcomed group and turned the time over to Mitch Strohmman for the introduction of the subject. Introductions were made of new member, Ryan Rodriguez, NAU Student Body President of Academic Affairs. Introductions were made around the table of the members present for the benefit of Mr. Rodriguez.

Mitch turned time over to Mike Covalt, Airport Manager. Mike stated that there are several things going on at the Airport. Airport closed at midnight 8-15-05 for 52 hours for resurfacing, will reopen then close again for a day, hope to have this phase completed by 8-19-05. Mike presented information on the Airport Master plan – Noise Impact study will be going before the City Council.

Mike gave a power point presentation regarding the Runway Extension project. Mike stated that the number one reason that the runway needs to be extended is due to safety concerns. He stated that there are only two other airports higher in elevation than Pulliam Field in the country. The present runway is not designed for larger airplanes.

Continue Existing Service: Looking at America West to continue providing service—comparison of different styles of airplanes, Dash 8 regional jet, 737. Regional jet needs a larger runway, does not perform as well in high altitude, would need to lighten airplane. Smaller jets are not as land able in Flagstaff as the larger jets, 4-500 miles good for regional jets.

Support Economic Development – WL Gore planes are severely weight limited in summer—cannot take off with a full tank of fuel, need to stop and refuel—extending runway would solve this issue. Wiseman Aviation would be able to sell more fuel, putting funds back into the City. Presented a map of city boundaries showing potential extension area, safety zones. Will be open for a 30 day comment period, copies are in the City Manager's office, Library and online on the City's website. Hearing will be held on Thursday, August 18. Workshop will be done to ask/answer questions, will have a stenographer available to take notes, will be taking written statements from individuals. This opportunity will close on August 26<sup>th</sup>; information will then be forwarded to FAA. FAA will make decision whether or not to approve the environmental assessment. If approved can begin construction—hope to complete in 2007.

Bill Menard, Public Works Director, City of Flagstaff presented a series of charts noting the airport area outside of the Airpark area that surrounds but does not touch taxiway. The current businesses located at the Airpark are Joy Cone, which provides approximately 2 million to the community, created 175 jobs, have two shifts a day, in a 300,000 square foot building. Also located in the area are Citizens Utilities, Machine Solutions, and Board of Registrar of Contractors. Other building is leased out—FBI will be leasing another building in the near future, as will Homeland Security, & Arizona Game & Fish. Recently sold four acres to a firm called AZ Engineering firm, will be moving from Phoenix. Zoning is Urban Commercial – several entities are looking at the site, DPS, Peabody Coal, Guardian Air.

Bill presented three charts as follows:

1. Yavapai Land Exchange – Have been working on project for seven years. Showed a map of the area of Ruskin Land Exchange. Bill gave an overview of the information regarding this land exchange and the boundaries and area planned for a business park, regional park, housing, etc. Need to find the right match for the airport. Area is planned for a convenience market and gas station—would be beneficial to Joy Cone for semi drivers to fuel and buy food/drinks on their way out of town.
2. Presentation of Airport Layout Plan – Bill stated that all possible changes to the airport need to be listed on the plan in order to be eligible for government grants.
3. Airspace Plan – Navigation legend. Approach surface, influence area—state allowed to be added. Information to realtors to notify potential buyers of airport/flight patterns to protect airport from people moving into the area.

Questions were asked of Bill regarding the information presented. Urban Commercial – general commercial zone, ranges from motels, hotels to retail. Long-range plans include possibly placing the Public Works complex at the airpark. The National Land exchange has been a difficult project. Discussion was held on the Coconino National Forest and issues relating to the Land Exchange project. Bill Menard stated that it is more costly and a longer process to work with the Forest Service. Fred Ruskin came to the city to propose the land swap. Forest Service

does not want to manage land in urban areas, giving up land around Weitzel school area. Continued discussion was held on land exchanges.

Airport (runway extension) can expand without the land exchange. Expansion refers to the airpark area. Land exchange will provide safety zone and area for a potential second runway.

Discussion was held on information regarding expansions, and enplanements.

The extension will increase flights from five to 19 per day. Might be able to accommodate two airlines, terminal may need to expand, but was built with expansion in mind—foundation is in place, just a matter of moving walls/roof out.

Airplanes in general are becoming quieter—the jet is quieter than the turbo prop type of plane. Noise contours are within designated areas.

Mayor indicated that he has received information from Bob Holmes that the land exchange may be done in September. Camp Verde is slowing down process—has been through the senate, then needs to go to Congress, and then the President will need to sign off. Still a public review process with Forest Service after the approvals. Discussion was held on Camp Verde and water issues relating to the land exchange.

Timetable for comments:

1. 30-day public comment period ends August 26<sup>th</sup>—would like to hear comments (ends seven days after hearing).
2. Public Hearing 6:00 pm Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Will be taking emails, comments, letters and a court reporter will be available to take comments.

BOR – Radio Beacon area – Forest Service land leased to FAA.

Mitch thanked Bill and Mike for their time and information.

#### Upcoming Meeting Topics:

The following were discussed as potential topics:

Gene Westerhaus had left a comment card with Mitch regarding upcoming topics with the question “What’s going on with FMC and the hospital.”

Nat White – FUTS Trail system in general. Budget information.

Mayor – Incentive Project for Business – North Country Health Center.

Judy Boyer – Mall Expansion update, NAU Expansion (Conference Center) update, Land Use – Regional Plan.

Discussion was held on the potential topics. It was determined that the topic of *NAU – Flagstaff Update, Convention Center, & Arizona Cardinals* will be discussed. David Camacho will set up and coordinate individuals to speak

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 am.